

**NATURE SASKATCHEWAN**  
**Resolution 2010-05: Coyotes**

WHEREAS during the winter of 2009-2010 the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture undertook a province-wide "pilot" bounty program that resulted in the elimination of over 71,000 Coyotes from the prairie ecosystem,

AND WHEREAS during the 1960's, decimation of the Great Plains Coyote during the snowmobile revolution brought about a province-wide invasion of the Red Fox, causing significant ecological and economic damage to the prairie ecosystem,

AND WHEREAS the structure and integrity of many ecosystems are maintained in large part by apex predators and evolutionary process through limitation of intermediate "meso-predators" such as the Red Fox,

AND WHEREAS predator bounty programs have proven to be economically inefficient, counter-productive and ecologically damaging, as demonstrated in various studies throughout the world,

AND WHEREAS the conservation of many endangered species, and wildlife in general, is dependent on ecological policies that recognize the central role of apex predators (in today's prairie ecology, the Coyote),

BE IT RESOLVED that Nature Saskatchewan reaffirms its position with the Government of Saskatchewan that it strongly objects to the use of public funds in a bounty program on Coyotes that has the potential to cause serious ecological damage, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Nature Saskatchewan reaffirms its position with the Ministry of Agriculture that predator bounty programs cause both economic and ecological damage in the long run, due to demonstrable ecological principles, and that anti-predator policies, dictated entirely by monocultural economic practices, are incompatible with sound ecological management, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Nature Saskatchewan urge the Government of Saskatchewan to empower the Ministry of Environment to follow its mission of protecting the environment by monitoring predator populations with a wider effort to maintain key ecological and evolutionary processes, particularly in fragmented landscapes such as our remnant grasslands, beginning with an environmental impact study of the "pilot" bounty program of 2009-2010, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Nature Saskatchewan continue to advance Resolution 97-1, recognizing that predation is a key factor shaping ecosystems, and that species at risk are merely components of the ecosystem subject to the ecological processes of predation, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Nature Saskatchewan recognize that decimation of the Coyote in the winter of 2009-2010 is a significantly disruptive ecological event that will have repercussions for wildlife populations, including rodents and species at risk, and that it will undertake to address this issue in its policies and practices, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Nature Saskatchewan encourage the Government of Canada, through the Minister of the Environment, to recognize that the prairies are one ecosystem within Palliser's Triangle, and that endangered species management requires a national ecosystem-based conservation strategy that recognizes the essential role and critical value of the Great Plains Coyote as the remaining apex predator in an altered system.

PASSED BY THE MEMBERSHIP OF NATURE SASKATCHEWAN ON SEPT. 25, 2010